gur, wheat products and hydrogenated vegetable oil or vanaspati and shall not require any licence or permit therefor.

This Notification has ensured free trade and movement of foodgrains and best prices to farmers for their produce.

(c) Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Construction of Rural Godowns under which subsidy is provided on capital cost of the storage project to persons belonging to private and co-operative sectors. The scheme has helped the farmers to store their produce near the field, obtain pledge loan and marketing credit from the banks, thereby avoiding distress sale at the item of harvest. The scheme is being implemented since March, 2001 and so far 6974 storage projects have been sanctioned by banks to create 115.1 lakh tonnes of rural storage capacity in the country.

Outstanding amount for sugarcane growers

†216 SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States were provided with special amount for the disbursement of outstanding amount to be paid by sugar mills to sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the amount provided for this purpose alongwith the conditions stipulated in this regard;

(c) whether the sugarcane growers have been provided with their outstanding amount by making the said amount available to the sugar mills for the disbursement to the sugarcane growers by all the State Government as per consultations including the State of Uttaranchal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government (Ministry of Agriculture) had allocated Rs. 678.06 crores for one time assistance to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana to help clear the sugarcane price arrears in respect of 2002-03

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sugar season by private sugar factories in those States. The particulars of Central assistance to these States against the budgetary provision of the Ministry of Agriculture are as follows:—

Name of States	Amount of assistance (Rs. in crores)
Uttar Pradesh	490.21
Uttaranchal	32.25
Bihar	39.91
Punjab	30.96
Haryana	84.73

The States of Uttaranchal and Bihar have availed of the assistance to the tune of Rs.45.54 crores and 18.85 crores respectively.The Central Government have also decided to offer assistance to the State Governments by way of market borrowings to help sugar factories clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season. The State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have availed of this assistance to the tune of Rs.229.97 crores and Rs. 300.00 crores respectively.

The terms and conditions of the above schemes are given in Statement I and II. (See below).

(d) Disbursement of the amount sanctioned by the Central Government to eligible sugar mills as per stipulated terms and conditions is the responsibility of State Governments. The Central Government does not maintain data to this effect..

Statement-I

One time financial assistance provided to SAP states by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture to clear arrear of sugarcane in respect of Private Sugar Mills for year 2002-03.

Central Government in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation decided to provide Rs. 678.06 crore one time assistance to State Governments to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane farmers who

have not been paid cane arrears for 2002-03 season by private sector sugar factories in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana. The assistance was subject to following conditions.

1. This will be a one-time assistance limited to the cane arrears of the farmers for the season 2002-03 arising out of the difference between the State Advised Price (SAP) and Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) with regard to the sugar factories in private sector only.
2. The assistance will be in the nature of a soft loan at a concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum with an initial moratorium of 3 years and repayable in 3 years thereafter.
3. The assistance shall be contingent upon the State Governments undertaking not to declare SAP for sugarcane in the State in future either formally or informally and on their withdrawing pending Writ/Appeal/Special Leave Petition (SLP), if any, in High Courts/Supreme Court filed by the State Governments in regard to SAP.
4. The funds released to State Governments under the assistance, will be placed at the disposal of concerned District Magistrate/ Collector by the State Government in a separate account which will be opened by the concerned District Magistrate/Collector for this purpose.
5. The claims of the cane arrears of the individual farmers as mentioned in Para 1 with private sugar factories in the district will be verified by the concerned District Magistrate/Collector and after verification, the amount due to individual farmers would be released directly to the farmers by the District Magistrates/ Collectors.

Statement-ll

Financial assistance through additional open market borrowings.

The Central Government have also decided to offer assistance to the State Governments by way of market borrowings to help sugar factories clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season.

The conditions in brief are:—

(a) The State Governments would be extended financial support to meet the interest liability to the extent of difference between the Coupon rate on the Bonds raised through additional market borrowings and 4% (the rate at which loan is being extended to the sugar mills).

(b) The State Governments would in turn, extend 10 year loan to the sugar mills with a ceiling interest rate of 4% per annum, this loan will have moratorium on repayment of principal and interest for a period of 5 years and would, thereafter, be repaid in 5 equal instalments.

(c) The above would be available to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors where the practice of announcing the State-Advised prices of sugarcane exists and all sugar mills in the States where no such practice exists.

(d) The extent of open market borrowings would be determined on the basis of sugarcane price arrears in a given State.

(e) Any additional benefit, which a State Government may wish to provide, would be to the charge of the State Government concerned.

(f) The State Governments would make specific proposals to the Ministry of Finance seeking permission for access to additional open market borrowings.

Indulgence of FPS in black marketing

217. SHRITARIQANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMERAFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fair Price Shops meant for serving food grains to weaker sections of the society are indulging in black marketing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against guilty ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) In such a vast network of about 4.76 lakh